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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim ⁶~~29~~ (currently amended): A kit for detecting inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression, comprising ~~CASP8 gene-specific~~ oligonucleotide primers for amplification of at least a part of the 5' untranslated region of *CASP8* genomic DNA, wherein said primers are at least 10 nucleotides long and are used in a methylation polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay.

Claim ~~56~~¹ (currently amended): A method for detecting inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression in a primary cancer cell, comprising detecting a methylation of *CASP8* genomic DNA.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The kit of claim 29, wherein the kit comprises ~~CASP8~~ gene-specific oligonucleotide PCR primers for amplification of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim ~~58~~² (previously presented): The kit of claim 58, wherein the kit comprises at least one oligonucleotide PCR primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 33, and SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim ~~60~~² (previously presented): The method according to claim ~~56~~¹, wherein the methylation occurs in the 5' untranslated region of *CASP8* genomic DNA.

Claim ~~61~~³ (previously presented): The method according to claim ~~60~~², wherein the methylation occurs in sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim ~~62~~⁵ (previously presented): The method according to claim ~~57~~⁴, wherein the PCR assay utilizes at least one of the primer sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 33, and SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claims 63-65 (canceled)

Claim ~~66~~⁸ (new): A method for prognosis of a neuroblastoma comprising detecting inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression in a neuroblastoma cell from a subject, wherein said inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression in the neuroblastoma cell is indicative of the inefficiency of apoptosis induced by activated death receptors, chemotherapeutic drugs, or irradiation, and wherein said method comprises detecting a methylation of *CASP8* genomic DNA.

Claim ⁹~~67~~ (new): The method according to claim ⁸~~66~~, wherein the neuroblastoma is a tumor in which a *myc* gene is amplified.

Claim ¹⁰~~68~~ (new): The method according to claim ⁸~~66~~, wherein the methylation of *CASP8* genomic DNA is detected by methylation polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay.

Claim ¹¹~~69~~ (new): A method for diagnosis of an aggressive neuroblastoma comprising detecting inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression in a neuroblastoma cell from a subject, wherein said inactivation of a *CASP8* gene expression in the neuroblastoma cell is indicative of the presence of an aggressive neuroblastoma and wherein said method comprises detecting a methylation of *CASP8* genomic DNA.

Claim ¹²~~70~~ (new): The method according to claim ¹¹~~69~~, wherein the neuroblastoma is a tumor in which a *myc* gene is amplified.

Claim ¹³~~71~~ (new): The method according to claim ¹¹~~69~~, wherein the methylation of *CASP8* genomic DNA is detected by methylation polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay.